

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 260744Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2360

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10692

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RP CH

SUBJ: MRS. MARCOS AND CHIANG CHING

REF: A) MANILA 11520; B) HONG KONG 10486

1. AS INDICATED IN REF B, TREATMENT ACCORDED MRS. MARCOS SINCE HER ARRIVAL IN PEKING HAS BEEN UNUSUAL FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN A MAJOR HEAD OF STATE. HER MEETING WITH CHOU EN-LAI, THE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION DEVOTED TO HER BY CHIANG CHING, AND THE EXTENSION OF HER STAY ALL SIGNIFY THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE PRC PLACES ON ITS DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES. ABOUT ALL THAT IS LEFT WOULD BE A PERSONAL MEETING WITH MAO, A POSSIBILITY THAT MAY WELL EVENTUATE.

2. ALTHOUGH CHIANG CHINGHAS CERTAINLY PAID AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF ATTENTION TO MRS.SAARCOS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SHE HAS PRE-EMPTED CHOU. RECENTLY, ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THEIR DESIRE FOR INCREASED RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES,THE PRC LEADERSHIP AS APPEARED TO BE IN RATHER COMPLETE AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONTEXT, MRS. MARCOS' VISIT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRC AND , IF SHE INDICATED A DESIRE TO STAY ON FOR THE CHINESE

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, CHIANG CHING COULD WELL HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH LITTLE ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO EXTENDING THE INVITATION.

THE HOSPITALIZED CHOU, WHO INVITED MRS. MARCOS WHEN HE WAS IN BETTER HEALTH, COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN THE HOST AND CHIANG CHING, WHO HAS NO STATE FUNCTION, COULD DO FOR IN HER ROLE AS PATRONESS OF THE ARTS AND WIFE OF THE CHINESE LEADER. THERE STILL REMAINS, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT CHIANG CHING SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSERT HERSELF IN FOREIGN RELATIONS AND GRASPED IT FIRMLY IN ORDER TO FURTHER HER OWN POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

3. IN ANY CASE, MRS. MARCOS IS NOT OUT OF PEKING WHILE CHIANG CHING, WHO ACCOMPANIED HER AS FAR AS TIENTSIN, HAS APPARENTLY RETURNED TO PEKING. MRS. MARCOS PRESUMABLY WILL BE BACK IN PEKING FOR THE OCTOBER 1 EVENTS AT WHICH TIME CHIANG'S ROLE MAY COME TO THE FORE AGAIN.

4. SEPTEL WILL PROVIDE ANALYSIS OF CHIANG CHING'S RECENT ROLE IN CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICS.

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